(b) if so, whether the Coast Guard is not fully equipped to prevent any oil spill; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and steps taken to make Coast Guard fully equipped to face any oil spill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Coast Guard is equipped to combat medium sized oil spills and have recently contained such spills effectively in the Andaman Sea and Off Bombay High. The strengthening of the Coast Guard is done as per the Coast Guard Development Plans, subject to the availability of funds.

Crash of MI-8 Helicopter

1433. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the inquiry conducted into the circumstances leading to the crash of MI-8 helicopter soon after its take off from Ha airbase in Bhutan killing GOC-in-C, Eastern Command, his wife and other army personnel and members of the Airforce crew; and

(b) what action has since been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) As per findings of the Court of Inquiry, the most probable cause of the accident was loss of power at a critical point after take off, necessitating a forced landing. The reason for loss of power could not be ascertained due to lack of evidence as a result of extensive post impact fire. Loss of power, itself, however would not have resulted in the crash, had it not been for a logging cable, the presence of which was not known to the crew, in the direct path of the decending helicopter.

(b) As the helicopter was fully serviceable before take off, the probable cause for the loss of power could not be established. No extra measures over the already existihg comprehensive checks have therefore been prescribed.

Benefits being provided to ex-servicemen

1434. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the benefits that are being provided to the Ex-Servicemen after their retirement;

(b) what are the schemes that provide for Government/Semi Government, Public Undertaking, Bank|Employment bnefits to Ex-servicemen;

(c) whether Government have drawn any special scheme for the widows and children of Ex-servicemen;

(d) what are the schemes that provide for the benefits for rehabilitation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Ex-Servicemen, after their retirement, are being provided with the following benefits:—

(i) Free medical treatment in military hospitals to pension holders.

(ii) Canteen facilities.

(iii) Preferential admission to medical and engineering colleges as per laid down priorities.

(iv) Entired to short stay in the Sanik Rest Houses during their visit to District Headquarters.

(v) Recognition of marriage of Armed Forces personnel, after their retirement, for grant of family Pensiob.

(vi) Allotment of disposable surplus vehicles.

(vii) Financial assistance to needy ex-Servicemen.

(viii) Reimbursement of expenditure for treatment of serious diseases like bypass surgery, Kidney transplant etc.

(ix) Preferential allotment of petroleum product agencies.

(x) Loan facilities under the self-employment schemes for ex-Servicemen, viz., SEMFEX-I, SEMFEX-II and SEMFEX-III.

(xi) Preferential allotment of Jai Jawan Stalls/Kiosks/Mother Dairy Booths/Delhi Milk Scheme booths, renting and catering at railway platforms, agencies for Unit Trust of India, Transportation of Coal etc.

(xii) Training programmes for improving their employability or to enable them to take self-employment after retirement.

In addition to the above, disabled ex-Servicemen are also entitled to the following benefits:—

(i) Disability pension/war injury pension.

(ii) Constant attendance allowance where applicable.

(iii) Provision of artificial limbs/surgical appliances.

(iv) Special Pension of Rs. 50/- per month to the blind Demence personnel whose disability is attributable to military service.

(b) Schemes for employment of ex-Servicemen are as given below:—

(i) *Reservation under Central Government :*

Group 'C'.	10%
Group 'D';	20%
Groups 'A' & 'B'	10% posts of Asssitant Commandant in Para Military Forces.

(ii) *Reservation under PSUs/Banks :*

Group 'C'	14.5%
Group 'D'	24.5%

(iii) *Reservations under State Governments.*

(a) Bihar, Kerala, Nagaland and Meghalaya do not have any reservation.

(b) In other States reservation varies from 2 per cent to 20 per cent in Groups 'C' and D'.

(c) The widows and children of ex-Servicemen get the following benefits:—

(i) Widows and children of Defence Service Personnel who are killed in action or peace time with death attributable to military service are accorded priority II A for employment assistance under Central Government Dependents of Defence Service Personnel who die in harness and whose death is not attributable to military service are eligible for compassionate appointment.

(ii) Widows are eligible to avail the facility of loan for various self employment schemes/ventures.

(iii) Under ex-Servicemen Resettlement Training Scheme, the scope of training has been extended since Nov. 89 to cover widows/atleast one dependent child of personnel whose death was attributable to service. The aim of the training

is to train them for employment/ self employment.

(iv) Concessions to children of ex-Servicemen for recruitment in Armed Forces in terms of relaxation for physical measurement and ten marks on overall merit list.

(v) Scholarships/Stipends for school-going children through the Welfare Funds of the State.

(vi) Reservation of seats in Sainik Schools.

(vii) Reservation of seats in Professional Colleges through State Governments.

(viii) A few seats are reserved in Medical/Engineering Colleges for nomination of children of War Widows/disabled Servicemen and decorated serving and ex-Service personnel of Armed Forces.

(ix) Some States organise free training for coaching for NDA entrance examinations and normal recruitment in the Armed Forces.

(d) and (e) Besides employment, Government have also instituted various training schemes to provide gainful self-employment opportunities. These are as under:

Training: To rehabilitate the ex-Servicemen, the following resettlement training schemes have been formulated:—

(aa) Ex-Servicemen Resettlement Training Scheme.

(ab) Preparing ex-Servicement for self-employment (PEXSEM) Similarly, the self-employment schemes are:—

(aa) SEMFEX-I-which provides for financial assistance to ex-Servicemen for setting up small industrial projects.

(ab) SEMFEX-II-to encourage ex-Servicemen to take up gainful farm and non-farm activities in rural areas.

(ac) SEMFEX-III-to provide opportunities to ex-Servicemen/widows of ex-Servicemen and disabled ex-Servicemen to set up Khadi and Village Industries in rural areas.

(ad) Preferential allotment of Oil Product Agencies.

(ae) Transportation of Oil Products.

(af) Setting up of ex-Servicemen Transport Companies/Cooperatives.

(ag) Coal Transport Scheme.

(ah) Sale of repairable Typewriters and Duplicators.

(ai) UTI Agencies.

(aj) Milk booths/Mother Dairy fruits and vegetables outlets.

(ak) Mercantile Bank Scheme.

(al) Oriental Bank of Commerce Scheme.

Purchase of advanced jet trainer

1435. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief of Air Staff has recently emphasised the need for a quick decision on the purchase of Advance Jet Trainer (AJT) for the IAF;

(b) which are the aircrafts under consideration of Government; and

(c) whether all the offers from various leading companies are being considered while taking the decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Early acquision of Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) has recently been reconfirmed as a high priority scheme by IAF.

(b) and (c) After evaluation of all available options, alpha Jet of France and Hawk of UK have been shortlisted for possible acquisition after negoriations.